CHRISTMAS

By GEORGE H. PICARD Copyright, 1900, by American Press Asso-



half of the last century was well spent did the specles of literature which has come to be known as Christmas fiction effect a permanent lodgment in the hearts of English speaking mankind. The ancient parable plays and the rhymed holiday legends of the mid-

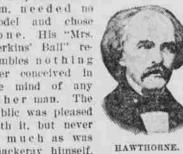
dle ages are still in use on the continent, but the more secular minded English had only the rude Yuletide jingles and the quaint carols of beef eating antiquity. Contrary to the prevailing notion, the

inventor of the tale with a distinctively Christmas flavor was an American, It is likely that it would occur to few Americans and to no Englishman to dissent if it were asserted in their presence that Charles Dickens originated the Christmas story. His name is so inseparably connected with so much of the holiday literature enshrined in the popular heart that it is small wonder the mention of Christmas suggests him. The credit of the "literary find," however, must be given to another, a man who was at the end of his thirties when Dickens was born, who had been at Malta when Nelson's fleet sailed away to Trafalgar, who had visited Sir Walter at Abbotsford and had captivated him and who was afterward secretary to the United States legation in England. That, of course, means Washington Irving.

Irving's first book, "The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.," had pleased everybody, so much so, indeed, that it was republished by John Murray in London and translated into several continental languages. Both the publishers and the public were urging him to do something equally meritorious. Nobody realized more keenly than did the author of the exquisite work the difficulty of producing its mate, and he was not a man to be driven into mediocrity. Three years later he published "Bracebridge Hall," and the chapter of that masterpiece of literary workman ship entitled "Christmas at Bracebridge Hall" was the ploneer holiday tale of English literature and has furnished a model for subsequent fictionists which has seldom been equaled and never excelled. Its easy grace and felicity of expression were a revelation to everybody in those days, and the wonder and the charm are potent still.

William Makepeace Thackeray, master of a realism that is the wonder and the despair of those who have followed

him, needed no model and chose none. His "Mrs. Perkins' Ball' resembles nothing ever conceived in the mind of any other man. The public was pleased with it, but never so much as was



Thackeray himself. Most amazing of all, the author of the tale professed to believe that it was "Mrs. Perkins' Ball" that had made his reputation-that, too, in the face of the fact that "Vanity Fair" had just been published. This perversion of Thackeray in regard to the literary value of his wares and his lack of faith in his masterpiece-he had so little confidence in the success of "Vanity Fair" that after it appeared he applied for a small government position-are proof sufficient that the man who creates a masterpiece may have a dim

conception of artistic values. All the makers of great fiction are more or less under the spell of their immediate surroundings, but few have made it more apparent than Charles Dickens. Those who knew the circumstances saw plainly that he had put himself and his sad childhood into many of his pathetic short stories. This is especially true of "The Ghost In Master B.'s Room," which is an account of things which happened to him in his troubled boyhood. As a child he was a firm believer in ghosts. and it is probable that he never entirely abandoned his faith in spectral appearances. Many of his tales are peopled with disembodied spirits, and they are like the ghosts of no other writer. They are the spooks that appeal to one and make one believe in their genuineness. They are frequently more real than the living characters who consort with them. Although they are dead, they conduct themselves like living en-Dickens' Christmas ghosts are unique

in the realm of literature. Of all the silent shapes that

have been sum-

moned from the

upper and nether

worlds to lend en-

chantment to the



Christmas tale his alone have become acclimated. There is never anything repulsive about them. They are

THACKERAY. the most companlonable spooks ever invented. They are seldom sepulchral, but are frequently cheerful. They are not the haunting, sleep killing and never to be exoreised phantoms of the fairy tales, but actual personalities, freed from all

mortal restrictions in regard to locomotion that come to us when we bid them and vanish politely when we are weary of their presence,

Bret Harte never made a secret of his admiration for the creator of Little Nell and Tom Pinch. Like Paul at the feet of Gamaliel, he was content to receive his lesson from the man he acknowledged to be his master. Not until after Dickens had finished his work did the young literary light who stood revealed in the far western firmament learn that his model had seen that exquisite elegy "Dickens In Camp" and had been heard to express his admiration of it in the most generous terms. The dying novelist declared that the work of the new American writer contained such subtle strokes of workmanship as no other writer in the language had yet exhibited. And then he asked, with a humorous gleam in his weary eyes, "Don't you think that his manner is very like my own?"

Like Dickens, Harte had a genuine fondness for the doings of Yuletide, One who knew him best says that up to the last day of his life "he thought much of the Christmas season and to the last kept up the fond and foolish custom of sending generous presents to his friends." Better appreciated in England than in his native country, Harte spent the later years of his life abroad, but his stories were to the last distinctively American. In that admirable performance entitled "How Santa Claus Came to Simpson's Bar" there is no flavor of the old world Christmas, and Johnny, clothed in the stars and stripes, is a young American of the most unmistakable sort.

Two of the most strikingly dissimilar Christmas stories ever written are

Hawthorne's

*Christmas Ban-

quet" and Miss

Mitford's "Christ-

mas Party.'

There is little of

Christmas in

Hawthorne's

grewsome tale.

The joyous festi-

val is only a lit-



erary makeshift DICKENS. woven a weird psychological study that drives all remembrance of the blessed season from the mind. Its ghosts are not the sociable and easily banished spooks of Dickens. They are formless and creepy and all pervading. They are the fearsome specters that rise in the frigid vapors of German mysticism, and they are made icier still with a strong admixture of New England transcendentalism. It is a masterpiece in conception and in treatment-no question at all about that-but it does not make the Yule log glow more brightly or lend a better flavor to the steaming

Mary Russell Mitford does not deal in ghosts. All of her Christmas characters are flesh and blood people, and they are not of the sort that ' stay dead when they die." Her "Christmas Party" is as dainty in its workmanship as anything which ever came from her careful pen, and that is saying much. It is as restful and nonsuggestive as a pastoral, and its influence is as soothing as the delicate savor which escapes when the cover of a potpourri jar is lifted or the drawer of an old time cabinet is opened-the faint, pervasive odor of crushed rose leaves and dried lavender.

THE RATIONAL CHRISTMAS.

By ELLIS FRAME

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"Let us give in reason this year," she suggested; "Not merely for the sake of giving It's the spirit, not the money invested.

Let us, therefore, turn from foolish squanderings. Let the gifts we give be things that may

Instead of trash soon to be cast aside." "My darling, your suggestion shall be For there is wisdom in it," he replied.

She did her shopping early, being guided By lessons learned from much experi-She would show her lord and master, she

decided. How excellent a thing was common For their baby boy she purchased a

French corset And an oriental rug that caught her "Though the darling longed to have a

rocking horse, it Wasn't sensible," she murmured, with a They had promised not to buy things for

They would merely get a few things for She would sacrifice her sister and her

mother, And it gladdened her to see the way he As he said his people, too, should be omit-

So the wise and winsome woman, day by day. From shop to shop, with sweet emotion, flitted,

Having dry goods bound up and sent He bought a pipe and splendid smoking

To give their darling glee on Christmas With these the child could make no such a racket As might have been produced with drum

and horn. He also got the works, unexpurgated, Of old Boccaccio and Rabelais, So that their little one might be elated And long have glad remembrance of the

On Christmas when their presents were displayed

They sat upon the sofa side by side,

And while their child looked up at them, dismayed, He had a culprit's manner, and she



W. R. C. Officers Elected.

Chamberlin W. R. C. met last Thursday evening with Mrs. A. W. Adams, the first meeting in December, for election of officers. There was a large attendance and it was a profitable meeting. It is hoped however that plans will mature in the near future for a permanent place around which is of meeting. Resolutions of sympathy in their homeless condition from a sister corps were read, also kindly contributions from sister corps through the

> The following officers were elected: Pres., Mrs. Sarah F. Hovey. Sen, Vice Pres., Mrs. Cora Hamilton, Jun. Vice Pres., Mrs. Sibyl Young. Treas., Mrs. Henrietta Gorham. Chaplain, Mrs. Sarah Adams. Conductor, Mrs. Grace Butterfield.

Department President were received.

Guard, Mrs. Mary Foster. Delegates to convention: 1st., Mrs. Jane Morris; 2nd, Miss Annie Carr. Alternates: 1st, Mrs. Inez Adams; 2nd, Mrs. Juliet Lawton.

Museum Notes.

Albert Howe has presented the Museum a most interesting article for the historical collection. It is an old wagon made by Sir Thaddens Fairbanks in the early part of the ninetenth century, probably before the scale industry was started The vehicle is made in a style frequently found in the northern states where roads are rough. The wheels are of good size with unusually large hubs. The body which is without springs is boat shaped, and onto this the wagon seat is fastened by means of two wooden bars in front. On one of these bars is a peg around which the reins were fastened. was no dasher and the whip was laid in the bottom of the wagon. Wagons of this sort were frequently used by farmers and form quite a contrast to the one horse shay which was typically the vehiele of doctors and ministers. wagon was purchased from Sir Thaddeus Fairbanks by Chauncey Spaulding, one of the first settlers in the Spaulding Neighborhood.

T. M. Howard has given the museum a curious piece of script money dated 1852. It is headed "Hungarian Fund" and states that on "demand one year after the establishment in fact of the independent Hungarian government the holder shall be entitled to one dollar payable at the national treasury or at its agencies in London or New York."

Basket Ball Game.

On Saturday, December 3, the St. Johnsbury intermediate basket ball team went to Newbury and defeated the high school team of that place by the close score of 29 to 27. The Y. M. C. A. was not familiar with the rules and fouled continually. Creaser and McCullough held the N. H. S. forwards down splendidly, while Ward played all around his man. F. Simpson played his man off his feet, getting three baskets and doing a great deal of floor work, and Captain Lynch showed that he was in the game from start to finish, getting three baskets and keeping his team cool.

Line up: N. H. S. r f. Webb, A. Carlson If, R. Carlson e, Temple Y. M. C. A. F. Simpson, rf
Lynch, if
Goals from floor, Ward 6, Lynch 3, Simpson 3, MacCullough 1, Creaser, R. Carlson 5, Temple 4, Webb 1, A. Carlson 1. Goals from fouls R, Carlson 5, Lynch 3, Time 15 minute, 10 minute and 15 minute periods. Score 29-27 R.

Academy Notes.

The lady teachers have been cultivating the social side of life by meeting informally with each other from time to time. Saturday afternoon Miss Beulah Johnson acted as hostess.

Miss Anna Hartley ex-'09, of Lancaster, N. H., visited friends here for a few days last week. The Boys' Glee Club had a rehearsal Monday night.

A Card.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to refund the money on a 50 cent bottle of Greene's Warranted Syrup of Tar if it fails to cure your cough or cold. We also guarantee a 25-cent bottle to prove satisfactory or money refunded. C. C. BINGHAM, M. D. PARK,

FLINT BROS, F. G. LANDRY. C. A. SEARLES & Co.

Mrs. Mason Whiting.

the past week.

her father, Jack Miller.

B. A. Hatt and daughters Mildred and Florence are at Gr ton Pond, where

creamery in the absence of B. A. Hatt. were invited to spend the evening with her at Mrs. J P. Weeks' Friday, Dec. 3, the occasion being her 23d birthday. Refreshments were served and a pleasant time enjoyed by all. A berry spoon was presented her with wishes for many

Mrs. Clementine Johnson, who has been stopping with her daughter, Mrs. H. C. Stanton, for a few weeks, has returned to her home at Island Pond.

recently made a short visit to Mr. Chickering's mother, Mrs. Alice Chicker-

here on business last week.

NORTH DANVILLE.

days or two weeks. She is accompanied by Mrs. C. S. Blodgett, who goes to Attleboro, Mass., to visit her daughter,

Mrs. Peter Eddy of Fabyans is visiting

The marriage of Chauncey C. Massey and Alice Chitord, both of this place, took place at the Free Baptist parson-age, Nov. 24. Rev. J. B. Higgins officiat-

Mrs. Hatt is very low. E. W. Hunt of Danville is running the

A few of Mrs. H. F. Ru sell's friends nappy returns of the day and regrets that she was so soon to leave the place for her new home in Calitornia.

Mrs. A. Merton Chickering of Boston

At the annual meeting of the Free retary, William Clement: trustees, F. E. Bickford, William Clement, and M. S. Sanborn; treasurer, C. H. Sanborn, col-

Mrs. S. K. Huse goes today to Boston to visit her brother, Dr. Powers, for ten

C. B. Stevens went to Stanstead, Ayers Cliff and Hatley on a business trip

H. W. Varnum of Jeffersorville was

Baptist society, Monday evening, the old board of officers was re-elected: Seclector of pew tax, M. S. Sanborn.

Vermont Men and Andover Seminary.

The General Catalogue of Andover Seminary, covering the century from tors one was born in Eden and one in 1808 to 1908, reveals interesting statisties which show some of the contributions of Vermont to the ministerial ranks during that period. Beginning with the first class graduating in 1810, numbering 16 graduates and 7 nongraduates, to class of 1834 is found John Humphrey which Vermont contributed two, there are men from the state in every class, save that of 1811 down to 1881. For the rest of the nineteenth century up to 1900, there are men in all the classes save '81, 83, '84, '90, '91, and '99. Of the total number of ministers who studied at Andover, taking the whole or partial course, Vermont furnished 354 out of 3,031. In addit on to this there were 34 more who graduated or studied at Andover and nev-er entered the ministry, going into busi-national Commission, the following reer entered the ministry, going into busi-

ness or to other professions. It is interesting to note the towns from which these men came. Cornwall leads the list with 14. Hartfordcomes a close second with 13, or if Quechee is credited then the number is 14. The names of Hazen and Marsh are prominent in Hartford, as is that of Mead in Cornwall, Rutland is credited with 12, or including West Rutland 13. Middlebury and St. Johnsbury have 10 each, Pittsford 7, Bennington, Randolph, Shoreham, Thetford, Townshend and Westminster have 6 each, and Brattleboro, Georgia and Montpelier

have each five. The contribution of towns with no Congregational church, and towns where the Congregational church has become extinct, is significant as showing the changes both in the character and in the number of the population during the century. The towns of Lemington and Maidstone, where there is no record of any church of any order, have each furnished one student. The town of Salem, which has been made a part of Derby, furnished one who became a foreign missionary. The town of Shaftsbury, given over in the early settlement of Bennington to the Baptists, furnished one. In the lists of towns where the Congregational church has become extinct the little mountain town of Stratton now nearly depopulated furnished two, as did Barnard, Fairfax, Monkton and Sandgate. The following towns where the church has long been extinct furnished one each; Plymouth, Chittenden, Reading, Cavendish, Halif x, Washington, (H. N. Burton, D. D.) Topsham, (President G. A. Gates, D. D.) Granville and Groton. It is not to be wondered that Ryegate, solidly Presbyterian with one of the best records in the James Everard, wife of the multi-state for church attendance, should have millionaire brewer, that her daughter sent one man to Andover. Until recently Calais had no Congregational church, but three men from there have gone to

Andover, among them Drs. N. G. Clark and Constans L. Goodell. on these Vermont men in fair proportion; 83 have had the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and ten that of LL. D. Middle bury College takes the lead in the conferring of these honors, especially in the early years. Upon graduates up to the class of 1840 she conferred the degree of D. D. on 20 out of a total of 27 during the century. Dartmouth during the 100 years gave 13, the University of Vermont 12 and Hamilton 3. Yale, Harvard, Amherst Williams, Union, Ripon and Shurtliff College gave two each, and the following one each: Bowdoin, Water-ville, Brown, Columbia, Howard University, Beloit, College of New Jersey, Knox, Trinity, Inghram University, Hanover College, Ripon, Marietta a TOWE. the Degrees of LL. D. Middlebury gave 4, the University of Vermont 2, and Dartmouth, Ripon, Lafayette and Syracuse

one each. Three men had life pastorates in Vermont: Cyrus Drake, born in Weybridge, pastor in Royalton 1837 to 1878, D. conferred by Middlebury in 1861; Alfred Stevens, born in Waterford, pastor in Westminster West, 1842 to 1887 and emeritus till his death in 1893, D. D. conferred by Dartmouth in 1874; and William Skinner Hazen, born in Hartford, pa tor in Northfield 1863 to 1905 and emeritus since, D. D. conferred by the University of Vermont in 1891.

Among the trustees of the Seminary is found Jeremiah Evarts, who was born n Sunderland in 1781. Among theinstruc-Timmouth. In the class of 1837 appears the name of Jonathan Blanchard, born in Rockingham in 1811, president of Knox College 1846-60 and Wheaton College 1892. Among the non-graduates in the class of 1834 is found John Humphrey Noyes, born in Brattleboro in 1811, who became a "Perfectionist" and the found er of the Oneida Freelove Community. He was resident in Putney, 1838 47. where he gained his first followers.

Church Federation.

In a letter recently written by G. L. Winship of Fairlee to Rev. G. F. Wells, port is given of the present hopeful out-

We have a settled pastor now who is

doing good work, the Rev. C. C. Parker from Hudson, N. H. In every way the churches are doing greater work than before we federated. The attendance is better in the morning and the evening service brings out double or treble what the old fashioned way could. The Sunday school is growing. The girls have been organized in a society, the boys are to have a club and we have an orchestra which is to play in the church next Sunday evening. We are hard at work just now in building the cellar wall for our new (our first) parsonage. In the old way we had hard work to raise (jointly) \$350 for preaching. In the new we start off by paying the pastor \$500 and a house to live in, and commence a \$1,500 parsonage for which we already have about \$1,000 pledged. Everybody is ready to help and the kickers have disappeared. Our pastor uses a combined form of the two methods of the com-munion service. Fairlee is booming and the Federated Church will keep up in the

HEIRESS WEDS CHAUFFEUR

Daughter of Millionaire Brewer and Her Husband on Honeymoon Trip New York, Dec. 5 .- "Yes, yes; Olga was married to Williams in Newark, Nov. 23. They are away on a short trip. Certainly she has been forgiven. It was not an elopement, was the announcement made by Mrs Olga had married William Williams, the former chauffeur of the family and later private secretary.

The Everards live on their estate Honorary degrees have been conferred in Greenwich, Conn., which adjoins that of William G. Rockefeller.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Chart Hitchira

A Coated Tongue,

Constipation and Indigestion. means-use The American Liver

Village Gaucus.

Notice is hereby given to the legal voter in the Village of St. Johnsbury, to meet at the Fown Hall Friday. Sec. 17th, 1909, at 7.30 p. m. to place in nomination candidates for election at the Annual Village Meeting, January 5, 1910.

PRESTON E. MAY,
Village Clerk,
Dated at St. Johnsbury, Vt., Dec. 6, 1909. Attest:



"Howard time" means but the one thing. The man who carries a Howard absorbs a new standard of punctuality and accuracy. Unconsciously he begins to live up to his watch. The HOWARD is the chosen timepiece of men who think in seconds. Let us show you this distinctive watch-\$35 to \$150; price sized by printed ticket.

J. D. Blackshaw,

up-to-date Jeweler. Diamonds, Watches,

Rings, etc.,

for Xmas Gifts.

Both telephones.

Notice of Settlement.

ESTATE OF SIDNEY T. WILKINSON. STATE OF VERMONT District of Caledonia, 88
The Honorable Probate Court for the Dis-

trict atoresaid:
To all persons interested in the estate of Sidney T. Wilkinson, late of Lyndon in said Sidney T. Wilkinson, late of Lyndon in said district, decenced. Greeting:
Whereas, said court has assigned the 24th day of December next for examining and allowing the account of the Administrator of the estate of said decrased and for a decree of the residue of said estate to the lawful thimputs of the same, and ordered that public notice thereof be given to all persons interested in said estate by publishing this order three weeks successively previous to the days assigned in the Caledoniau, a newspaper published at St. Johnsbury in said district.

district.

Therefore you are hereby notified to appear at the Probate Office in St. Johnsbury in said district, on the day assigned, then and there to contest the allowance of said account if you see cause, and to establish your right as heirs, and lawful claimants to said

Given under my hand, this 7th day of 1 ccember A. D., 1909.
WALTER P. SMITH, Judge.

Probate of Will.

ESTATE OF JAMES RITCHIE.

STATE OF VERMONT, Caledonia District, ss.
The Honorable Probate Court for the district of Caledonia: To all persons interested in the estate of James Ritchie, late of St.
Johnsbury, in said district decased, greeting:
At a probate court, holden at St. Johnsbury within and for said district on the 7th day of tee. A 14, 1909, an instrument purporting to be the last Will and Testament of James Eitchie, late of St. Johnsbury, in said district decased, was presented to court aforesaid, for probate.

And it is ordered by said court that the 24th day of Dec. A. 17, 1909, at the probate office in said St. Johnsbury, be assigned for proving said instrument, and that notice thereof be given to all persons concerned, by publishing this order three weeks successively in the Caledonian, a newspaper circulating ESTATE OF JAMES RITCHIE.

publishing this order three weeks successively in the Caledonian, a newspaper circulating in that vicinity, in said district, previous to the time appointed.

Therefore, you are hereby notified to appear before said court, at the thic and place aforesaid, and comest the probate of said will, if you have cause.

Given under my hand at St. Johnsbury, in said district, this 7th day of Dec., A. D. 1900. WALTER P. SMITH, Judge.



There is no escape for your hens if you feed The Park & Pollard Company Dry-Mash. You can buy it of E. T. & H. K. Ide, St. Johnsbury.

We are paying for old hens alive, 18 to 14 cents per lb.; chickens from 2 to 5 lbs., 13 to 14 cents THE PARK & POLLARD COMPANY,

A YOUNG CALF TRAINER.

[COURTESY OF VERMONT PHOENIX.]



The accompanying cut illustrates a were bred, being in the class of milking well-matched pair of Shorthorn bull calves, Dictator Lad, No. 307,185 A. H. B., and Dictator Boy, No. 307,184 A. H. constitution is the fixed purpose sought | times would go to town after a bag of grain or on an erran 1 to the store, but born Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 1908, respec-

farm in Wilmington. At the time the picture was taken they were exactly five months old. So closely are they mated in size, color and general the yoke. Soon the boys had them so markings that it would be hard for a they would lead well side by side and and on one occasion the picture was been without some reward. By the stranger to tell one from the other, when about three months old the boys taken, showing Miss Charlotte Fiske of courtesy of President Hooker his calves They are handsome roans with white had them in the yoke and hitched to a London, England, Master Dick Eaton of received special mention from the judges' markings and show distinctly at their small sled and readily made them know Wakefield, Mass., and Miss Ruth and stand.

Shorthorns where a combination of milk | was bought and a pole was attached and and beef with early maturity and good the work went on until the driver at Holyoke.

tively, and are the property of Roswell old it was noted how near alike they P. Crafts, proprietor of the Maplewood were, and very early Master Pliny Crafts, assisted by his friend and neigh-

When wheeling came along a wagon | Crafts, all being the great grandchildren grain or on an errand to the store, but at the Valley fair in Brattleboro, and When the calves were but a few days perhaps more to show his "hitch," in they were much admired by all who saw which he took justifiable pride. When them. It was a happy moment for the Master Pliny's city cousins came up on boy when he appeared in front of the a visit he was at the train to meet them, grandstand with them, and from the bor, Master Barber Mann, began to bal- and with his bull calves took them to appreciation of the audience and the ter break them before putting them into the farm. While his cousins were visit- greeting he received he was led to believe ing him he took them to ride every day, that his efforts in training them had not early age the purposes for which they that a little work was expected of them. Masters Parsons, Burton and Pliny

of Roswell P. Crafts, second mayor of

This fall Mr. Crafts showed his calves